

Argument Against Measure _____

Protect Costa Mesa, vote NO on Measure ___!

The Council rushed their badly-conceived charter to the June ballot. Residents urged them to slow down and appoint a Citizens Committee, like neighboring Newport Beach, Huntington Beach and Irvine. Instead, they rejected open government and lost costly court battles. **A Judge ruled that the City violated election law.**

Measure ___ increases the power of politicians and undermines the rights of citizens and taxpayers. Unlimited power concentrated in three council members is risky. Politicians should not be allowed to create the laws governing their own conduct. Unchecked power is a recipe for disaster.

Measure ___ paves the way for tax increases (like Bell) and wasted tax dollars. The charter would give politicians the power to waste your tax dollars and to grant favors to friends. As the Wall Street Journal reported, the charter cities of Stockton, Vallejo, San Bernardino, Bell, Vernon, Compton, and Placentia are all in or near bankruptcy, or facing corruption charges.

Measure ___ invites cronyism and corruption. Consider Bell and Vernon: Politicians enriched themselves and put their own interests ahead of residents, degrading vital services and leading to financial ruin.

Measure ___ eliminates legal protections against no-bid contracts, exposing our city to favoritism, fraud and corruption. City contracts could go to political favorites, even those with poor qualifications and higher prices. We've seen what happens when a charter eliminates basic checks and balances. Politicians line the pockets of their friends. They put their own interests ahead of yours.

Measure ___ invites legal expense because of its unclear and unconstitutional language. Costa Mesa has spent over \$2 million in legal expenses over the last fiscal year. Newport Beach taxpayers spent millions on 50 proposed amendments to their charter. We just can't afford it.

Vote NO on Measure ___

Visit www.cm4rg.org.


Wendy Leece, Costa Mesa City Council Member


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